

What's so Bad About Buckthorn?

Buckthorn is an invasive Eurasian shrub/tree that was originally imported to Minnesota as an ornamental border plant. It was a big mistake, because it spreads very quickly through its roots and berries, and overtakes all other native plants. It is a great threat to the old oak forests we have in Shoreview.

To get rid of it, you have to pull it up by the roots, or cut it down and spray the stump with a powerful herbicide that will prevent it from coming back and spreading.

The Shoreview Green Community Clean Water Committee has been sponsoring a Buckthorn Bust at the Shoreview Commons Pond every spring and fall for several years. Other groups have also tackled Buckthorn in other areas of Shoreview.

We need everyone to remove Buckthorn from their own property. To do this, you will need to become familiar enough with it to feel confident that you are cutting down the right thing. The best way to do that is to participate in one of the Shoreview Green Community Buckthorn Busts. Watch for our upcoming Bust.

Sue Rengstorf, Shoreview Environmental Quality Committee

Why is buckthorn such a problem?

- Out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture
- Degrades wildlife habitat
- Threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats
- Contributes to erosion by shading out other plants that grow on the forest floor
- Serves as host to other pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid
- Forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation
- Lacks “natural controls” like insects or disease that would curb its growth

Herbicides to Control Buckthorn

Trade Name	Chemical Name	Concentration	Use
Ortho Brush-B-Gon	Triclopyr amine	Premixed at 8%	Cut stump
Ferti-Lome Brush Killer and Stump Killer	Triclopyr amine	Premixed at 8.8%	Cut stump
Garlon 3A	Triclopyr amine	25-50% solution with water	Cut stump
Garlon 4	Triclopyr ester	1 part Garlon 4 and 3 parts bark oil/diluent	Cut stump or basal bark
Roundup, Rodeo, Accord, Etc.	Glyphosate	25-50% solution with water	Cut stump



Always read and follow the instructions and precautions on the herbicide label.

Reference to chemical brand names in this column does not imply endorsement of those products. The herbicides listed in this article may be available under other brand names with the same active ingredient that are equally effective.

Call Before You Dig. Before you pull or dig buckthorn out of your soil, contact Gopher State One at 1.800.252.1166.